



Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs

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Testimony in Support of HB 5353 AAC A Fair Work Week Schedule

To: Honored Chairs Sen. Kushner and Rep. Porter, Vice Chairs Sen. Cabrera and Rep. Sanchez, Ranking Members Sen. Sampson and Rep. Arora, and Distinguished Members of the Labor & Public Employees Committee

From: Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs

On behalf of the Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 5353, An Act Concerning A Fair Work Week Schedule.

The Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs builds alliances among diverse constituencies to combat climate change, create jobs and promote racial, economic, and climate justice. The Roundtable seeks to build a worker-oriented environmental movement committed to securing a fair and just transition that protects not only the environment but also the livelihoods of workers and their communities.

We firmly believe that jobs should be a source of stability for working families. Connecticut's workers deserve a predictable work schedule that allows employees to plan for childcare, schedule appointments, and make social plans. Without a regular schedule, workers lack a regular paycheck but also cannot seek a second job to compensate for unpredictable income.

In addition to giving workers a more predictable schedule, HB 5353 would require employers to offer extra shifts to current workers before hiring additional staff. This ensures employees have access to full-time hours, if they are available to them, so they can receive benefits. This is in the interest of all of Connecticut's residents. Employers who hire new part-time employees to avoid paying benefits keep Connecticut workers in poverty and reliant on taxpayer-funded safety net programs.

This bill is also a matter of equity as women and people of color are disproportionately represented in Connecticut's more than 140,000 retail, food service, and hotel positions that lack predictable schedules and reliable paychecks.

We strongly urge you to support HB 5353 to help Connecticut's working families thrive.

Sincerely,

Aziz Dehkan
Executive Director

Allison Pilcher
Policy Director

Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs
www.ctclimateandjobs.org